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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

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CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN APPLE MARKETS IN MID-OCTOBER

Germany

German market receipts of domestic and other European apples continued large up to the latter part of October, and sale conditions, especially for medium and lower qualities, have been very satisfactory, according to a report mailed October 13 and brought up to date by cable of October 25, from Acting Agricultural Commissioner L. V. Steere at Berlin, to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The volume of supplies has been materially larger than last year and the price level a little lower than at the corresponding time a year ago. Better qualities, which are not abundant, are meeting with somewhat more satisfactory demand, however, and the demand for good quality well colored table apples has recently strengthened as indicated by slightly higher prices.

It now appears that European crops are even slightly larger than hitherto assumed and the prospects of the market opening up for a large volume of American fruit much before Christmas are not encouraging. The Continental fruit trade expects shipments of European apples to be heavy during October and November, with the great bulk of the crop probably out of the way by the middle of December. It may be possible, however, that local supplies of better quality fruit will be cleaned up sooner than expected, as purchasing power has without doubt improved since a year ago.

The trade indicates, however, that the storage of domestic and other Continental fruit for later consumption is likely to be more of a factor this year than for some seasons past. Arrivals from Czechoslovakia and other Danubian countries, as well as Italy, Switzerland, France and Holland are said to consist of considerable fruit suitable for storage purposes, and wholesalers are actively engaged in putting it away. Last year's storage was insignificant, but it is indicated that many dealers this season will put away as much fruit as space and money will allow. A certain amount of storage in Holland, France and Switzerland must also be counted upon for late winter and early spring shipment, according to the trade. While American exporters should not overlook the probable existence of larger storage holdings of Continental fruit this winter, it does not seem at all likely that these supplies will mean a poor market for good quality American fruit during the winter months. An effort will be made to keep shippers informed of the development of such holdings.

Czechoslovakia

Reports from Czechoslovakia indicate that the rather weak market existing during the latter half of September has shown improvement in October. Foreign demand for both apples and pears, especially the better qualities, became noticeably more active and was relatively brisk for pears. Prices for better qualities of both fruits have advanced.

Switzerland

October reports from Switzerland are similar to those from Czechoslovakia, indicating improvement in the demand for good quality apples, following general weakness in September. Swiss shippers have so far found the Scandinavian market more favorable than the German which all the surrounding countries have been aiming at. Such differences, however, usually adjust themselves within a short time.

Denmark

The large stock of Continental apples which accumulated in Copenhagen during the latter part of September has been nearly worked off and the market has been improving since the middle of October. The demand for current arrivals of American apples, both boxes and barrels, is described as strong. Further improvement is expected in the immediate future.

Italy

The export surplus of apples on October 22 in the South Tyrol region was relatively small, states Mr. Steere. In the Piedmont section the total crop is estimated at 500 cars. Some late varieties will probably be exported from November to January but the largest share of the remaining apple supply will be consumed in Italy. The imports of Italian apples into Germany during the three months, July to September, totaled 175,000 bushels against 236,000 last year. The smaller imports confirm the above estimate of a reduced exportable surplus of Italian apples.

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